

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING SYSMEX AMERICA FOR ITS CONTINUED INNOVATION, COMMITMENT TO QUALITY AND POSITIVE IMPACT IN THE COMMUNITY

**HON. BRADLEY S. SCHNEIDER**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 25, 2013*

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Sysmex America on the opening of its latest research and development laboratory, and to honor their contributions to global health care.

Headquartered in Lincolnshire, IL, Sysmex America distributes diagnostic analyzers, reagents and information systems all across North and South America, helping countless laboratories provide better services and countless patients receive better care.

Health care is increasingly dependent on new, innovative technologies, and Sysmex America is on the cutting edge of research and development. The opening of this new facility will only add to their capabilities and long-term success.

Illinois's Tenth Congressional District has a rich tradition of innovation in health care and manufacturing, and Sysmex America perfectly embodies the contribution of both industries, building some of the finest medical technology and information systems in the world.

With such dedication to core values like innovation, teamwork, unmatched quality and the advancement of health care, Sysmex America demonstrates remarkable responsibility not only to their clients and shareholders, but also to the community as a whole.

Mr. Speaker, our Tenth District is home to a number of excellent corporate citizens, and each enriches the community in its own way. I am proud of the companies that make our community strong, and I am honored that Sysmex America calls our district home. I congratulate them once again on the opening of this remarkable new lab, and I look forward to following their future innovations and success.

A TRIBUTE TO HONOR THE LIFE OF CARLA ANDERSON

**HON. ANNA G. ESHOO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 25, 2013*

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of an extraordinary woman, Carla Anderson, who passed away on July 23, 2013, in Bismarck, North Dakota.

Carla Anderson was born on September 15, 1960, to Donald and Cecelia Albers in Bismarck. She never lost her love for her home town of Center, North Dakota and her rural America roots. For the past eight years, Carla served as Deputy Executive Director of the Next Generation (NG) 9–1–1 Institute, a not-

for-profit organization that works with the Congressional NextGen 9–1–1 Caucus to promote the deployment of advanced and effective NG 9–1–1 services across the nation.

Throughout the years, Carla worked tirelessly to help the Caucus raise awareness of 9–1–1, develop and pass legislation to support the transition to NG 9–1–1, and make 9–1–1 a national priority. No one in our country did more to promote 9–1–1 education. Carla was instrumental in creating a coalition of national public safety and industry organizations to come together to promote 9–1–1 education.

Carla's dedication and enthusiasm to advance 9–1–1 and promote public safety was unmatched. Her impact has been felt not only throughout the United States, but internationally as well. Her smile and positive demeanor brought cheer and enthusiasm to everyone she touched and she will be missed by all those who have had the privilege of working with her. The 9–1–1 community has lost one of its greatest and most prominent champions.

Carla will forever be remembered as a devoted wife to her husband Tracy Anderson and extraordinary mother to their two beautiful sons, Brandon and Andrew. Her memory will always be cherished by her parents and bring joy to her siblings Kurt Albers, Scott Albers, Jeff Albers and Karen Thomas.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the extraordinary life and accomplishments of Carla Anderson. As Co-Chair of the Congressional NextGen 9–1–1 Caucus, I'm very proud and grateful to have had the opportunity to know and work with Carla. She took on every cause with a passion—whether it was cheering on the Center Wildcats basketball team, volunteering as the community photographer, or leading the charge on 9–1–1 education. Her untimely death is a loss not only for her family but to the entire Congress, the public safety community and our nation.

AMENDMENT NO. 77 TO H.R. 2397,  
FY14 DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
APPROPRIATIONS ACT

**HON. JIM BRIDENSTINE**

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 25, 2013*

Mr. BRIDENSTINE. Mr. Speaker, the House passed H.R. 2397, Fiscal Year 2014 Department of Defense Appropriations Act on July 24, 2013. My amendment, made in order as Amendment #77, was adopted by the House in En Bloc package number one offered by Mr. YOUNG of Florida. I want to be clear about the intent of this amendment. The amendment reduces the Defense-wide Operations and Maintenance account by \$11 million and re-allocates \$10 million split evenly between Army and Air National O&M accounts for National Guard State Partnership Program (SPP) activities. Specifically, this amendment would reduce the lowest priority internal media activities within the Defense Media Activity (DMA)

Operations and Maintenance account. The Department should not apply this reduction to DMA overseas media activities. My intent is that the increases in Army and Air National Guard O&M accounts specifically fund the National Guard State Partnership Program.

I would like to thank my colleagues, Ms. BORDALLO and Mr. WILSON, for co-sponsoring this amendment. These two members are champions of the National Guard and its security cooperation programs. The BORDALLO-WILSON bill, H.R. 641, codified SPP in statute and became Section 1204 of this year's House-passed National Defense Authorization Act.

The State Partnership Program is a vital component of the DOD's security cooperation mission. In contrast, Defense Media Activity includes numerous "nice to have" activities such as the Pentagon Channel and all of those glossy brochures that fill our in-boxes during budget season. This very modest funding readjustment signals Congress's commitment to fully leveraging SPP as a security cooperation tool. SPP is particularly important given the budget cuts to active duty deployed forces that will be less able to fulfill these requirements.

SPP is a DOD security cooperation program run by the National Guard that links state and territorial National Guards to military and civilian personnel in 70 partner nations. Almost every state and territory participates in SPP. In my state of Oklahoma, our National Guard has developed a robust relationship with Azerbaijan, a country increasingly important to energy security in Europe and Israel.

Unlike some security cooperation programs, SPP is not a "talking shop" where nothing of substance takes place. Typical SPP missions include:

1. Subject matter expert exchanges
2. Demonstration and training of certain capabilities and technologies
3. Senior leader visits; and
4. Mentor and liaison teams in which National Guardsmen actually embed with partner personnel on operations.

In times of budget cuts and sequestration, regional combatant commanders will reduce active duty participation in theater security cooperation activities. SPP can help plug this hole in support of joint COCOM and Chief of Mission objectives. No activities can occur without the joint approval of the COCOM and Chief of Mission. The types of activities eligible for funding are limited to those within the National Guard's core competencies.

By using the National Guard, SPP adds value in ways that, frankly, active duty forces cannot match. SPP brings three unique attributes to the table. First, SPP creates enduring relationships between particular individuals over the course of careers. Some National Guard and foreign military personnel have literally been training with each other for over two decades. As a Navy pilot, I can tell you that trust is indispensable in terms of fighting shoulder-to-shoulder with allied forces. Trust is built through constantly engaging with our allies and friends.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Second, the National Guard's dual-status gives it expertise in certain operations that partner nations must execute regularly. Our National Guardsmen are experts in disaster relief, border security, search and rescue, and civil disorder operations, among other operations. Finally, SPP brings our states and territories into security cooperation and provide conduits for developing non-security relationships such as strengthening economic or educational exchanges.

Mr. Speaker, I'm proud of the work the Oklahoma National Guard has done working with Azerbaijan. My amendment is a modest step toward properly funding this vital program.

#### RECOGNIZING THE 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY OF BOBBY & SHIRLEY STALLINGS

#### HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 25, 2013*

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate dear friends and neighbors of mine, Bobby and Shirley Stallings, and celebrate with them on a very special occasion. On June 20, 2013, Bobby and Shirley celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary.

Bobby and Shirley were married on June 20, 1963, by Chaplain Jolly at McCoy Air Force Base in Central Florida. They spent the beginning of their marriage in Salina, Kansas on Schilling Air Force Base where Bobby was stationed working on Atlas missiles in underground silos. While stationed in Kansas, Shirley went back to high school to earn her diploma and worked part time. Upon the completion of his service in the U.S. Air Force, Bobby went to work at Kennedy Space Center for North American Rockwell until 1969 when Mission Apollo 11 landed the first humans on the moon. Saving every penny possible in order to start their first business, Bobby and Shirley opened a child care center to help educate and prepare children for the future.

Bobby and Shirley have been abundantly blessed with a wonderful family and many friends. They are the parents of a son and daughter, and grandparents of two granddaughters. In addition, Bobby and Shirley remain in touch with many of the children they provided care for at their child care center.

Their dedicated service to their community and country is to be admired. I would like to congratulate them both for all of their accomplishments during their marriage, and in particular, thank them for all the sacrifices made while Bobby served in our nation's military.

Marriage and strong families are indispensable contributors to the prosperity of our nation. On behalf of the people of Central Florida, I am honored to recognize Bobby and Shirley for their testament of loyalty and faithfulness to one another and their family. I offer my sincerest congratulations to them for 50 years of marriage, and may God continue to bless them and their family in the years to come.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 25, 2013*

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, on the Legislative Day of July 24, 2013, a series of votes was held. Had I been present for these roll call votes, I would have cast the following votes:

rollcall 399—I vote “nay.”  
rollcall 400—I vote “no.”  
rollcall 401—I vote “no.”  
rollcall 402—I vote “no.”  
rollcall 403—I vote “no.”  
rollcall 404—I vote “no.”  
rollcall 405—I vote “no.”  
rollcall 406—I vote “aye.”  
rollcall 407—I vote “aye.”  
rollcall 408—I vote “aye.”  
rollcall 409—I vote “aye.”  
rollcall 410—I vote “no.”  
rollcall 411—I vote “aye.”  
rollcall 412—I vote “no.”  
rollcall 413—I vote “aye.”  
rollcall 414—I vote “yea.”

#### DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2014

SPEECH OF

#### HON. C. W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 23, 2013*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2397) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2014, and for other purposes:

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Madam Chair, I'd like to use my time to say thank you to the House and all of the Members who participated in some vigorous debate, for having conducted the affairs of the House in a most professional way, proving to our constituents that we can work things out and that we can work together.

I just want to say thank you to my colleague from Indiana Mr. VISCLOSKEY, who is handling the minority leadership on this bill for the first time. I think he deserves a lot of credit and a lot of applause for the good job that he did in keeping this schedule on track.

PETER, thank you very much.

While it seems a long time ago, it was only Monday night that we finally received the 100 amendments that would be filed and considered during the debate. We had to analyze those amendments by Tuesday—yesterday—so that we could begin the debate on this bill. Our staff did an outstanding job in working late into the night Monday night analyzing these amendments so that we could consider where we would be on those amendments.

Our staff is led by Tom McLemore as staff director and Paul Juola in a similar position for Mr. Viscloskey. The other members of the staff are Becky Leggieri, Brooke Boyer, Ann Reese, Megan Rosenbusch, Tim Prince, Walter Hearne, B.G. Wright, Paul Terry, Maureen Holohan, Jennifer Miller, Adrienne Ramsay, and Sherry Young. They are a most profes-

sional staff and it is hard to find any better team of staff members than those that I just mentioned.

Finally, I want to thank my good friend and strong supporter, the gentleman from New Jersey, Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, for all his help during the process of managing our bill this week. His dedication to the subcommittee is invaluable, and I sincerely appreciate his friendship and his assistance in managing the bill. Similarly, I would like to thank the gentleman from California, Mr. CALVERT, and the gentleman from Arkansas, Mr. WOMACK, for their assistance in this process. I have said on more than one occasion that we have a great group of members on our subcommittee who are dedicated to providing for the needs of our national security and for the men and women who wear the uniform in defense our freedom. The special efforts this week of the members of our subcommittee, and in particular the members I mentioned are clear proof of that.

#### NORTH CAROLINA STATE REPRESENTATIVE JERRY CHARLES DOCKHAM

#### HONORABLE RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 25, 2013*

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, North Carolina state representative Jerry Dockham has been a public servant of Davidson County for 23 years. Appointed to the North Carolina House of Representatives in 1990, Representative Dockham was continuously elected to serve 12.5 terms to represent the 80th District in the NC House.

A business graduate of Wake Forest University, Jerry operated an insurance company in his hometown of Denton, North Carolina for 38 years.

During his time in the North Carolina House, Jerry served as Chairman of the Committee on Insurance, Vice-Chairman of the Committee on Banking and a member of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Commerce and Job Development. Representative Dockham was consistently ranked in the top 10% of House legislators by the North Carolina Free Enterprise Foundation. He has received numerous awards, such as, 'Legislator of the Year' by the North Carolina Society of Anesthesiologists and the 'Emergency Medicine Advocate of the Year Award' by the North Carolina College of Emergency Physicians.

The husband of a teacher assistant, Representative Dockham has served on the Davidson County Community College Board of Trustees for 26 years. Jerry is an active member of his community, serving as a member of the Thomasville Chamber of Commerce and a member of the Denton Lions Club. He and his wife, Louise, are the proud parents of Andy and Matthew.

In his farewell speech on the floor of the North Carolina House, Representative Dockham left his colleagues with these words of advice: "I would just leave you with two requests. First of all, always honor this chamber. Always honor the House of Representatives and what it stands for. This is the People's House. And secondly, I would ask you this: always be kind to each other. We're down here,

we're away from home, we're away from our family and we deserve to be kind to each other. Whether you agree or disagree with someone, it doesn't cost anything to be kind to that person."

Mr. Speaker, I rise to call his extraordinary service and devotion to North Carolina to the attention of my colleagues and other readers of the RECORD.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2013

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker on July 24, 2013, I missed rollcall vote No. 408. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay".

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2013

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, July 23, 2013, I inadvertently voted "no" on roll No. 394—An amendment to H.R. 2397—the Department of Defense, offered by Mr. FLORES, numbered 41 printed in House Report 113–170 to prohibit any funds from being used to enforce the selective fuel bans set forth in Sec. 526 of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF THE NATION'S FIRST BALE OF COTTON

### HON. FILEMON VELA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2013

Mr. VELA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize this country's first bale of cotton in 2013, which was delivered by the Rodriguez Brothers' Farm at 2:15 p.m. on Friday, June 21, 2013, to the La Feria Co-Op Gin. The cotton with seeds weighed 1,920 pounds.

Cotton is an important agricultural commodity to South Texas. Last year, in the 34th Congressional District of Texas, which is anchored in Cameron County, 217,106 bales of cotton were produced, worth an estimated \$72,500,000.

The first bale, once ginned, will be delivered to the Harlingen Area Chamber of Commerce.

The First Bale contest dates back to the 1800's when producers were required to deliver their first bale of the growing season to Houston for certification. In 1953, the Harlingen Cotton Committee was authorized by the Houston Stock Exchange to hold the contest in Harlingen each year.

The Harlingen Cotton Committee of the Harlingen Area Chamber of Commerce has certified the nation's first bale of cotton for the past 60 years.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate having this opportunity to honor the first bale of cotton in the nation. This annual competition continues to highlight the importance of South Texas in our country's agricultural industry.

#### URGING THE RELEASE OF U.S. MARINE CORPORAL ARMANDO TORRES

### HON. JIM BRIDENSTINE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2013

Mr. BRIDENSTINE. Mr. Speaker, the recent news of the kidnapping of a U.S. Marine Corporal Armando Torres in Mexico is an incredibly tragic story. Corporal Torres was kidnapped on May 14, 2013 while visiting his father's ranch in La Barranca, Tamaulipas, Mexico just across from the U.S. border. The Torres family believes the ranch was the target of drug cartels as transshipment for drugs. I strongly urge those holding Corporal Torres to release him immediately.

As a Navy pilot with combat tours in Iraq and Afghanistan, I believe that Congress must send a message to our government and Mexico's government that we do not turn our backs on our men and women in uniform. I urge the U.S. State Department to prioritize securing the release of Corporal Torres in terms of our foreign policy with Mexico. As a member of Congress, I will do everything in my power to bring attention to Corporal Torres's kidnapping.

#### DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2014

SPEECH OF

### HON. PAUL RYAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2013

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2397) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2014, and for other purposes:

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Madam Chair, I want to thank Representative AMASH for offering this amendment to the Department of Defense Appropriations Act for 2014. We now know that the National Security Agency (NSA) is keeping a phone log of all calls made in the U.S. This issue merits heightened congressional scrutiny. We need to strike a balance between our efforts to prevent terrorist attacks and our protection of civil liberties. The committees with jurisdiction are conducting a thorough review—as they should. I look forward to hearing their recommendations.

That said, rewriting laws—especially one that NSA Director Gen. Keith Alexander says is vital to our safety—is not within the scope of the appropriations process. I welcome further discussion about the scope and intent of the PATRIOT Act, and look forward to working with my colleagues to ensure that the law is not overly broad. So though I commend Mr. AMASH for raising this issue, I must respectfully vote against his amendment.

#### DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2014

SPEECH OF

### HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2013

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2397) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2014, and for other purposes:

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Chair, I thank the gentleman for yielding and wish to express my appreciation to Defense Appropriations Subcommittee Chairman YOUNG and Ranking Member VISCLOSKEY for their skillful leadership in shepherding H.R. 2397, the Defense Appropriations Act for FY2014, to the floor.

This body has no greater obligation than to ensure that our men and women in uniform, and those civilians who support them, have the resources needed to keep our country safe. I want to thank the Chairman and Ranking Member for crafting a bill that keeps faith with our obligation to those who risk their lives to protect our freedoms.

Madam Chair, let me also express my appreciation to my friend and colleague, Congressman AMASH, and to Congressman CONYERS, the gentleman from Michigan and the Ranking Member of Judiciary Committee, for their good and hard work in fashioning the bipartisan amendment before us. Their work on the Amash-Conyers amendment is an example of what can be accomplished when members put aside partisanship and work across the aisle in an effort to come up with workable solutions to serious problems.

Madam Chair, the Amash-Conyers Amendment to H.R. 2397 prohibits the use of appropriated funds execute any order issued by the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court (FISA Court) that does not include the following sentence:

This Order limits the collection of any tangible things (including telephone numbers dialed, telephone numbers of incoming calls, and the duration of calls) that may be authorized to be collected pursuant to this Order to those tangible things that pertain to a person who is the subject of an investigation described in 501 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 (50 U.S.C. 1861).

The Amash-Conyers Amendment was prompted by the recent unauthorized disclosures regarding the National Security Agency's collection from Verizon of the phone records of all of its American customers, which was authorized by the FISA Court pursuant to Section 215 of the Patriot Act.

Public reaction to the news of this massive and secret data gathering operation was swift and negative. There was justifiable concern on the part of the public and a large percentage of the Members of this body that the extent and scale of this NSA data collection operation, which exceeded by orders of magnitude anything previously authorized or contemplated, may constitute an unwarranted invasion of privacy and threat to the civil liberties of American citizens.

To quell the growing controversy, the Director of National Intelligence declassified and released limited information about this program.

According to the DNI, the program does not allow the Government to listen in on anyone's phone calls. Nor does the information acquired include the content of any communications or the identity of any subscriber.

The DNI stated that "the only type of information acquired under the Court's order is telephony metadata, such as telephone numbers dialed and length of calls." The DNI stated that the data collection was "broad in scope because more narrow collection would limit our ability to screen for and identify terrorism-related communications. Acquiring this information allows us to make connections related to terrorist activities over time."

As a senior member of the Judiciary Committee, I have long been committed to safeguarding and protecting the constitutional rights and civil liberties of all Americans. Indeed, in 2001 I voted against the Patriot Act on the House floor because I was concerned that it did not contain sufficient protections to safeguard civil liberties, after it was rewritten from the bipartisan committee product that had strong civil liberties' protections.

I am also a charter member of the Homeland Security Committee, which is charged with the indispensable role of providing direction, guidance, and oversight to the Department of Homeland Security so that it fulfills its mission of keeping the homeland safe. So I am very familiar and sensitive to the inherent tensions between liberty and security.

I believe the questions raised by supporters of the Amash/Conyers Amendment about the NSA metadata program are legitimate, particularly the question whether there are sufficient protections for Americans' civil liberties. On the other hand, I am concerned that the amendment would also have the effect of precluding the use of section 501 to obtain an individual order for any business record (not just telephone data) about a person associated with someone who is the subject of an authorized investigation because of the defunding.

Madam Chair, striking the appropriate balance between the competing interests of national security and civil liberties requires thoughtful and careful deliberation. I believe that decisions of this scope and moment should be made in the regular legislative process where they are first vetted by the committees of jurisdiction which have the resources and expertise to examine the issues carefully, debate them fully, and to compile a legislative record that will enable the House to render a wise and informed judgment.

Because a funds limitation provision on an appropriations bill is poorly suited for this purpose, I do not support the Amash/Conyers Amendment. In contrast, I support and am an original co-sponsor of H.R. 2399, the "Limiting Internet and Blanket Electronic Review of Telecommunications and Email Act of 2013" ("LIBERT-E" Act), introduced by Congressmen CONYERS and AMASH and look forward to working with them and Chairman GOODLATTE to ensure that this legislation is considered under regular order by the Judiciary Committee.

Similarly, I look forward to working with my colleagues on the Judiciary Committee to hold hearings, markup, and report favorably to the House H.R. 2440, the "FISA Court in the Sunshine Act of 2013," bipartisan legislation I introduced last month that will bring much needed transparency without compromising national security to the decisions, orders, and

opinions of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court or "FISA Court." Specifically, my legislation, which is the House counterpart to bipartisan companion bill introduced in the Senate:

requires the Attorney General to disclose each decision, order, or opinion of a Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court (FISC), allowing Americans to know how broad of a legal authority the government is claiming under the PATRIOT ACT and Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act to conduct the surveillance needed to keep Americans safe;

addresses national security concerns by providing that if a decision of the FISA Court cannot be declassified without undermining national security interest, then the Attorney General shall disclose a summary of the opinion;

provides that if the Attorney General determines that even a summary of opinion would endanger national security interests, the Attorney General shall to provide a report to Congress describing the process to be implemented to declassify FISA Court opinions; and

requires the Attorney General to provide an estimate of the number of opinions that will be declassified and the number that are expected to be withheld because of national security concerns.

Madam Chair, it is critically important that legislation adopted by the House strike the proper balance between national security interests and protection of civil rights and liberties and the public's right to know. My legislation H.R. 2440, the "FISA Court in the Sunshine Act of 2013," strikes the proper balance.

More important, by considering this legislation in regular order instead of during the truncated and expedited proceeding that is a funding limitation amendment to an appropriations bill, the danger of making an incorrect decision can be avoided and the likelihood of reaching an informed and carefully calibrated decision that will enjoy the support of a majority of the Congress and the public will be increased substantially.

For these reasons, Madam Chair, I must reluctantly oppose the Amash-Conyers Amendment and urge my colleagues to do likewise.

#### STUDENT SUCCESS ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 18, 2013*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5) to support State and local accountability for public education, protect State and local authority, inform parents of the performance of their children's schools, and for other purposes:

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Chair, I rise today in strong opposition to the partisan House Republican plan to destroy and dismantle the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). Simply, this bill, H.R. 5, abandons our national commitment to equity in education for all K–12 students.

For decades, Members of Congress—on both sides of the aisle—had supported the need for targeted resources designed to help our nation's disadvantaged students and close

achievement gaps. But unfortunately, House Republicans have decided to turn their backs on our most vulnerable students in this bill. They are gutting education funding. They are removing protections for students with disabilities. They are making it easier to divert money away from poor and minority students. The Republican bill abandons the children who need us the most.

There is no doubt that the current law under No Child Left Behind is in need of serious reform. I voted against No Child Left Behind in 2001 and I know Minnesota schools, educators, and parents have had problems with it from the beginning.

Today I do stand in strong support of the Democratic alternative. It repeals the inflexible Adequate Yearly Progress requirements and replaces them with a focus on student growth and preparation. It includes policies to ensure that all students have a well-rounded education including science, the arts, and languages. It supports innovations in education with investments in educational research and technology, high-quality charter schools, and comprehensive school plans to reduce bullying and keep all students safe.

Our families, our educators, and our communities deserve K–12 education legislation that ensures all students have access to a world class education. Congress should be passing legislation that invests in our neighborhood schools, supports the development of effective teachers and principals, and helps students prepare for their future careers. I urge my colleagues to embrace real education reform by voting for the Democratic alternative and against the underlying bill.

#### DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2014

SPEECH OF

**HON. EARL BLUMENAUER**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 23, 2013*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2397) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2014, and for other purposes:

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Chair, I would like to thank my colleagues, Mr. PALAZZO and Mr. NUGENT, for their work on this important amendment.

Going forward, it is critical that we ensure our defense spending in no way disproportionately and unfairly impacts our Guard and Reserve, which this amendment would prevent.

America faces an unusual national defense crisis.

It's not that we are at risk of anyone surpassing our military might; America remains by far the most powerful nation on the planet.

The problem is that the way we invest in our military is not sustainable. The U.S. accounts for almost half of worldwide military spending, more than the next 14 countries combined.

We must find a way to maintain our strength, but spend less and smarter. This should be done by placing a greater emphasis on the role of our National Guard and Reserve to strengthen national readiness going forward.

The many Guard and Reserve deployments over the last decade have resulted in highly seasoned guardsmen with more skill and experience than we've ever seen.

We cannot allow Big Army, Air Force or Navy to push their sequestration-woes onto our citizen soldiers. Under sequestration, technicians are the only uniformed military personnel who are being furloughed. While we must continue working to replace the devastating sequester cuts for all affected, furloughing military technicians undermines our last decade of investment, which is imprudent and will cost us in the long run.

When it comes to keeping America safe in the midst of shrinking budgets, the National Guard is an investment with a very high return and should play a critical role in meeting the demands of our 21st century commitments.

I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF SCRANTON CELEBRATING ITS 125TH ANNIVERSARY DURING THE 2013-2014 ACADEMIC YEAR

### HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2013

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the University of Scranton and congratulate its leadership and students as the university celebrates its 125th academic anniversary. Founded in 1888, the University of Scranton will commemorate this remarkable achievement through various events throughout the 2013–2014 school year.

The University of Scranton was originally founded as Saint Thomas College by the most Reverend William G. O'Hara, D.D., the first Bishop of Scranton. In August 1888, the cornerstone was blessed by Bishop O'Hara, who sought to provide higher education for the Lackawanna Valley.

Prior to being administered by Jesuits, the university saw leadership by diocesan priests and seminarians, Xaverian Brothers, and the Christian Brothers, who changed the name of the school in 1938 from Saint Thomas College to the University of Scranton. In 1942, Reverend Coleman Nevils, S.J. led 19 Jesuits to administer the University of Scranton, an educational presence still felt today under Rev. Kevin P. Quinn S.J., who continues to grow the range of academic offerings and advanced degrees offered by the institution.

Through the years, the University of Scranton has gone from less than 1,000 local commuter students, to more than 6,000 students who come from all over northeastern Pennsylvania and beyond. The university's strategy and modern initiatives aimed at bettering lives and academics of its students are based on core Ignatian values, such as Cura Personalis (treating others, especially students, as individuals, just as God treats us), Magis (a relentless desire for excellence grounded in gratitude), and Rei Sollicitudo (a commitment to careful stewardship of the resources entrusted to our care).

In recognition of the University of Scranton's storied success, it will celebrate the 125th anniversary of the blessing of the original corner-

stone with a mass and luncheon on August 12. The university is a gem in my district, and I offer my congratulations to the faculty, staff, administration, students and alumni on this momentous occasion.

RECOGNIZING DREAM IT. DO IT.

### HON. LEE TERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2013

Mr. TERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dream It. Do It., Nebraska's new partnership with my alma mater, Omaha Northwest High School.

The Dream It. Do It. Initiative partners manufacturers with local schools and community organizations to promote manufacturing and educate students on careers in an industry that supports one in six jobs in the United States. According to the National Association of Manufacturers, the manufacturing industry employs nearly 10 percent of the workforce in Nebraska with annual average salaries of \$53,831. That's \$14,000 higher than other non-farm payrolls in my State. In addition to educating students on benefits of careers in manufacturing, Dream It. Do It. Nebraska helps students and their families understand the education paths necessary to obtain these jobs.

As Chairman of the Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing and Trade of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, I have heard repeatedly from over 40 witnesses in our Nation of Builders hearings that there are a lot of manufacturing jobs available. I've heard this from some manufacturers in Omaha. The problem is that employers are finding there isn't a pool of potential employees with the necessary skills for these positions. Dream It. Do It. Nebraska makes sure that tomorrow's workers in my district have the education and skills required to fill these great, middle-class jobs. I am pleased that Dream It. Do It. Nebraska is working in my district to help prepare young people for these jobs.

With twenty-five programs nationwide, Dream It. Do It. is truly a grassroots program. Its grassroots nature allows local leaders to design programs to address the specific needs in their communities. Dream It. Do It. Nebraska is able to prepare Nebraska students for Nebraska jobs.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Dream It. Do It. Nebraska and Omaha Northwest High School on their new partnership. I know that my Northwest Huskies and Dream It. Do It. Nebraska's partnership will benefit Nebraskans for years to come.

HONORING MISS CALIFORNIA 2013, CRYSTAL LEE

### HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2013

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Miss California 2013, Crystal Lee, who will be competing in the prestigious Miss America pageant this September.

A lifelong Bay Area resident, Crystal competed as Miss Silicon Valley against 60 other

outstanding young women at the Miss California Pageant earlier this year. Through five phases of competition, including interview, physical fitness in swimsuit, evening wear, on-stage question and talent, Crystal rose to the top. During preliminary competition nights, she even took top honors for her evening gown presentation and her ballet en pointe performance of "The Dying Swan." The latter should come as no surprise, since Crystal is an accomplished dancer who has been perfecting her technique for the last 13 years.

Winning the title of Miss California earned Crystal more than \$14,000 in scholarships. Over her four years of competing in the Miss America program, including in 2008 when she was Miss California's Outstanding Teen, Crystal has earned more than \$30,000 in scholarships. These awards were well spent, as Crystal graduated this past June from the venerable Stanford University. Proving that our Miss California has both beauty and brains, Crystal worked as a research assistant in the psychology, biology, virtual reality and drama departments and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Human Biology and a Master's Degree in Communications.

Crystal will put her Stanford education and Silicon Valley roots to good use through her Miss California platform Girls in S.T.E.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math). She's been a steadfast advocate for women to study and choose careers in STEM after she experienced firsthand a gender imbalance in her own classes and multiple internships at male-dominated technology start-ups. She's worked hand-in-hand with the Girl Scouts of America to help young girls understand engineering principles and earn their technology badges.

With perseverance, hard work and a little luck, Crystal will be able to continue her STEM platform at the national level as Miss America. California is fortunate to have such a strong and successful young woman representing us. This year's Miss America pageant will take on special meaning when it returns to its birthplace in Atlantic City after seven years away and no doubt it will be a memorable experience for all the young women participating. However, there is one I'll be cheering for most. To Miss California 2013, Crystal Lee, I wish nothing but the best of luck in her pursuit of the Miss America crown.

CONGRATULATING DR. ERDAG GOKNAR

### HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2013

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Dr. Erdag Goknar of Duke University in Durham, North Carolina for being honored by the National Endowment for the Arts, NEA, and awarded a 2014 NEA Literature Translation Fellowship.

Dr. Goknar serves at Duke University as an Assistant Professor of Turkish Studies and concentrates on late Ottoman and modern Turkish works. He also specializes in politics and cultural translation on works from the Middle East, including Islam and Sufism as well as secular modernity, identity, and gender issues. He is a published author on Turkish literary culture and has produced three complete translations of important Turkish books.

Dr. Goknar has an impressive list of national and international accomplishments, including receiving two Fulbright awards and the Dublin IMPAC literary award. He holds a PhD and Master's Degree from the University of Washington, Seattle.

Since 1981, the NEA has helped support the accessibility of priceless pieces of literature to all Americans by providing Literature Translation Fellowships to outstanding scholars to help translate those works into English. For 22 years the NEA has awarded 255 fellowships to help translate different pieces of literature in 62 languages from 78 countries. This year, after a rigorous review process, only 16 scholars are being awarded a total of \$250,000 to translate works in 13 languages from 15 countries into English.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Dr. Goknar on his commitment and contributions to helping more Americans access important literary works through translation. In an increasingly globalized society, it is critical to understand those from other places and walks of life. Literature provides perspective and context into important cultural trends and ideals, so we must invest in learning all we can through works in other languages and from other places.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring and congratulating Dr. Erdag Goknar and other 2014 NEA Literature Translation Fellowship recipients for their outstanding work and commitment to helping others access important pieces of literature.

RECOGNIZING MRS. ALLIE MUSE PEEBLES AS RALEIGH-APEX NAACP HUMANITARIAN OF THE YEAR

**HON. DAVID E. PRICE**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 25, 2013*

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mrs. Allie Muse Peebles on being selected to receive the Humanitarian of the Year Award by the Raleigh-Apex chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, NAACP.

Mrs. Peebles has dedicated over twenty years of service to the Raleigh-Apex NAACP. As Life Membership Chairperson, she has encouraged more than half of the branch to become Life Members and secured needed funds for the branch's annual scholarship and other endeavors.

I first got to know Mrs. Peebles as I prepared to run for Congress some 28 years ago. I quickly learned how respected she was in Raleigh and Wake County, based on her commitment to community betterment and her ability to communicate and work with people of varying views and backgrounds. After retiring as an English teacher, she continued writing for the *Carolinian*, a biweekly African-American publication based in Raleigh, and she remains an active member of the Raleigh Alumna Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., the Voter Education Coalition, the Sertoma Club, the National Council of Negro Women, and the Raleigh Alumni Chapter of Hampton University.

I commend her remarkable service both to the community and the Raleigh-Apex NAACP.

Mrs. Allie Muse Peebles is very deserving of the Humanitarian of the Year Award, and it is with great pleasure and pride that I congratulate her on receiving this honor.

HONORING BLAKE MCELMAN AND JAY CAVANAUGH OF MAINE FOR COURAGEOUS ACTIONS

**HON. CHELLIE PINGREE**

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 25, 2013*

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize two young men in my district whose courageous actions saved the lives of two fishermen this past New Year's Eve.

While attending a family gathering on Montsweag Bay in Woolwich, Maine, late that evening, Blake McElman and Jay Cavanaugh, both 21, heard yells coming from the water. Looking out, they saw that the incoming tide had quickly surrounded two men who had been digging for worms on mudflats far from shore. Standing on a rock, the men would quickly become immersed in the frigid water.

With time of the essence, McElman and Cavanaugh decided to attempt a rescue themselves. Hauling a canoe to open water over ice and snow, they paddled several hundred yards offshore and recovered the men, both showing early signs of hypothermia. Once ashore, they fed and warmed the men, who ultimately escaped from the incident unscathed.

This would not have been the outcome without the quick and courageous actions of McElman and Cavanaugh. Most likely they saved those men's lives that night. I'm relieved and thankful that all four men survived this very dangerous situation.

Mr. Speaker, many people in Maine make their living in jobs that involve braving the elements and even risking their lives in unforgiving and swiftly changing environments. But what also characterizes our state is that our people look after each other and are willing to go a long way to help one another. McElman and Cavanaugh certainly showed that to be true, and then some. I'm very proud to have them in my district.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2014

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 23, 2013*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2397) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2014, and for other purposes:

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Chair, I rise to speak in favor of adoption of the Defense Appropriations Act of 2014.

I thank Chairman C.W. BILL YOUNG and Ranking Member PETE VISCLOSKEY, Ranking Member of the House Committee on Appropriations' Subcommittee on Defense for their

work to provide for our nation's national defense.

I also want to extend thanks and appreciation to the men and women in and out of uniform to defend our nation. You serve your nation with honor and distinction. In each generation our nation must remember that the freedoms that we enjoy come at a price, which you have paid without hesitation or complaint.

Each year the Congress takes on the tasks of providing appropriations for the nation's defense. The Appropriations subcommittee that focuses exclusively on the work of the Department of Defense is the subject matter experts who manage the long process that resulted in the bill before us for consideration. As members of the House of Representatives we are each subject matter experts on the committees that we serve, but we are also experts on the constituencies we seek to represent.

My work in the 18th Congressional District has allowed me the privilege of working with men and women in the military, the workers in aeronautics and space industries that contribute to our nation's defense as well as those in the Department of Defense who work in and around our nation's capitol.

Through my work as a member of Congress I know those who have served and returned home to a tough economy, struggles with physical disabilities and life changing injuries associated with their service to our nation. I do not know the military as a mass of statistics, but individuals with names and faces—real people who depend on each of us to pursue their best interest.

I know you know that none of our offices received calls from lobbyist on behalf of the men and women who serve in defense of our nation in and out of uniform. That is why we must rely upon our own experience and that of the Appropriations' Subcommittee on Defense to reach the best result in a very long and arduous legislative process.

Military families make sacrifices with long separations of parents from spouses and children that last for over a year. Many miss some of the important moments in their children's lives when they are deployed when they have young children. The Defense Appropriations bill includes \$580 million for a military pay raise consistent with the raise included in the House Armed Services bill for a 1.8 percent increase.

I am pleased to say that this Defense Appropriations bill does a great deal more for the men and women serving in the military and places more focus on the needs of their families. This bill maintains the objective of previous Congresses to assure that our nation's military is the best trained, best prepared, best equipped, and best cared for fighting force in the history of the world. That is the least we can do for those who willingly risk their lives to keep us safe.

The bill also recognizes that the military is changing due to the expanded roles for women who pursue careers in the armed services. I strongly believe that this choice should not mean a diminution of rights or opportunities from what they would enjoy these women had pursued a different career path.

For this reason, I sought and the Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense provided \$150 million for a Peer-Reviewed Breast Cancer Research Program. The program fills a unique niche among private and public funding sources for cancer research and presents an

opportunity to forging new ideas and scientific breakthroughs in the nation's fight against breast cancer.

My work to expand the Department of Defense ability to provide assistance and support for medical research related to breast cancer included Jackson Lee Amendment #1 which provided \$500,000 in increased funding for breast cancer research, which was adopted by the Full House. This additional funding raised the amount in the bill to \$130 million and will be made available for Triple Negative Breast Cancer research. Triple Negative Breast Cancer is one of the most deadly forms of the disease that is extremely difficult to detect, and has an extremely high mortality rate.

The threat of sexual assault of both women and men serving in the armed services is a real threat to unit cohesion and professional conduct among the ranks. The troubling aspects of the stories we have heard is the lack of comprehension of the traumatic nature of this crime among superior officers in a position to help. The Defense Department Appropriations bill offers an additional \$25 million for a new Sexual Assault Special Victims Program in addition to fully funding request of \$156.5 million for a Defense-Wide and the Military Service Program which I strongly support.

I sought and the Appropriations Committee provided \$80 million in funding for a Prostate cancer program to be included in the final bill at 100 percent of the requested amount. The most prevalent type cancer in men, and second most diagnosed cancer in the nation, kills over thirty thousand people per year.

Veterans, especially those exposed to defoliants have been identified as being more prone to this disease. Research on prostate cancer will lead to better early diagnostic tools as well as better treatments and improvements to quality of life for prostate cancer survivors.

The unique nature of combat can produce illnesses that threaten health and life expectancy. This is why I requested \$25 million and the Committee provided \$20 million or 80 percent of my request to fund a Gulf War Illness Research Program, GWIRP. The bill provides \$20 million in funding to support the identification of treatments and diagnostic markers for Gulf War Illness, a chronic multi-symptom illness with no effective treatment affecting 250,000 Gulf War veterans. Treatments will benefit military personnel at risk of similar neurotoxic exposures. The FY14 program funded by this bill will fund studies of promising treatments and larger clinical trials of treatments previously shown to be effective.

Jackson Lee Amendment #2 that was adopted by the full House under debate of the bill offered additional funds from \$10 million provided by a transfer to an account that could be used to support work to assist military persons suffering from Post Traumatic Stress Disorders, PTSD. As we look to PTSD, some of a soldier's wounds are invisible to the naked eye, for these are wounds that should be properly treated. One of the best ways to increase access to treatment is to increase the number of medical facilities and mental health professionals who are available to serve the needs of men and women currently serving and those who have become veterans.

Post traumatic stress disorder, one of the most prevalent and devastating psychological wounds suffered by the brave men and women fighting in far off lands to defend the

values and freedom we hold dear. A suicide bomber, an IED, or an insurgent can obliterate their close friend instantaneously and right in front of their face.

Yet, as American soldiers, they are trained to suppress the agonizing grief associated with those horrible experiences and are expected to continue on with the mission. And carry on they do, with courage and with patriotism.

The bill also provides \$125 million in funding to for Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), and Psychological Health research, and \$4 million for alcohol and substance abuse research. In addition, \$20 million is provided for suicide prevention and outreach.

My focus is also the military of the future and the overwhelming need for people who have strong science, technology, engineering and mathematics, STEM, educations to fill the positions required for the successful defense of our nation's cyber networks.

I sought \$30 million for Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Minority-Serving Institutions, HBCU/MI. The Funding requested was approved by the Appropriations committee at the level at over \$35 million or a 116 percent over the amount I requested. The funds appropriated will reinvigorate the relationship between the Department of Defense and the HBCU/MIs and to ensure that minorities are represented in the long-term development of the STEM workforce pipeline. The funding will support undergraduate and graduate STEM programs to increase the participation and success of minority students through engaged mentoring, enriching research experiences, and opportunities to publish, present, and network. Consistent with the report of the National Academy of Sciences "Expanding Underrepresented Minority Participation: America's Science and Technology Talent at the Crossroads," the funding is intended to enhance the Department's efforts to emphasize STEM education improvement within the Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Minority Institutions program. The Committee should encourage the Secretary of Defense to consider these factors when awarding competitive funding under this program, as well as ensuring that selected programs have a sufficiently large cohort of students to allow for effective peer-to-peer mentoring.

I offered language to create a report that the Secretary of Defense must present to Congress on the topic of hazing in the military, harassment and mistreatment of service members across the Armed Forces. The Committee directs the Secretary of Defense to provide a report to the congressional defense committees not later than 180 days after enactment of this act on the prevalence and consequences of hazing, harassment and mistreatment of service members and the policies in place to address cultural sensitivity and hazing and harassment prevention and intervention. Further, the report shall include recommendations for the services to accurately record and prevent incidences of hazing, harassment and mistreatment of service members and to adopt a more intentional diversity and inclusion effort. Finally, the report shall propose a plan to implement and monitor these recommendations.

On balance this Department of Defense Appropriations bill overall is a good thing for the men and women of the armed services espe-

cially with the additional of an amendment to prohibit the use of funds to deny Department of Defense civilian employees security clearance because of financial difficulties caused by "furloughs" due to sequestration.

I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF PATTY SHAY

**HON. EDWARD R. ROYCE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 25, 2013*

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege and honor to recognize Patty Shay, who is retiring after 34 years of distinguished service to the U.S. House of Representatives.

Patty is the Director of Constituent Services and Office Manager for my office, and will retire on August 31, 2013. Patty began her career in civil service in 1977 with the office of Assemblyman Bill Dannemeyer and remained on staff after he was elected to Congress in 1979. Fourteen years later, Patty continued her service by joining my office when I succeeded Dannemeyer as Representative of the 39th District. By this time, Patty knew that she preferred casework and that the U.S. Service Academy process was her specialty.

Patty has enjoyed the challenge of helping people. Her motto is always, "do the best that I can in the place where I am and be kind." Over her years of service, Patty has handled thousands of cases. And often, people will call after years have gone by and continue to say thank you.

Her favorite casework is the Department of Veterans Affairs, and in particular dealing with those who served in WWII. The stories told by these humble warriors left her forever grateful for the Greatest Generation.

Patty's true passion during her service was the U.S. Service Academy process. She developed a very structured nomination system in order to develop the young nominees, which has helped them to succeed at the academies. She became known as Mama Shay due to a Cadet from the 3rd class that attended West Point. Patty has worn this as a badge of honor. Many officers continue to write messages to Mom/Mama Shay today.

Through the years, the long line of Patty's kids that received appointments grew to 607. Of that number, 414 graduated and are serving all over the world today. Many have accomplished fulfilling military careers while others have become lawyers, doctors, or dentists. She feels privileged to know so many bright, capable nominees, and has been happy to provide them with support, guidance, and direction throughout the years.

As a testament to her work, Patty has received numerous public service awards including; the "Duty Honor Country" award by the West Point Society of Orange County; "The Donald" which is an award selecting the legislative staffer of the year by fellow Orange County staffers; and the "Everyday Hero Award" from the Fullerton Rotary Club. Patty is extremely thankful and grateful for the years she has spent in public service.

Patty has always kept family close and of the highest priority. Having raised two active boys as a single parent, she was constantly running from one event to another. Who knew this would be the prologue to her duties handling the Academy Nominations. Her non-stop



energy and attitude toward teaching and helping others has always translated into family. Now that her sons are grown, she continues that same philosophy with her three grandsons. She is constantly researching and providing pathways to higher learning for each of her grandsons. She does this by taking each one of their strengths individually and providing a specific learning goal for each one, which is very similar to the approach she uses to provide Military Academy Appointments each year. Patty loves sharing the accomplishments of her sons & grandsons to her many friends and extended family members. She stays in close contact with her sister, niece, and nephew who all live in Oregon and Washington.

So I ask all of my colleagues to join me in thanking Patty Shay for her service to Congress, and the Nation. I wish her all the best in her retirement.

TRIBUTE TO BERNARD M.  
LUKETICH

HON. MICHAEL F. DOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Thursday, July 25, 2013*

Mr. DOYLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the long service of Mr. Bernard M. Luketich as National President of the Croatian Fraternal Union, which is headquartered in Pittsburgh.

Since its founding in 1894, the Croatian Fraternal Union has grown with the Croatian community in the United States. It is estimated that 30,000 Croatian Americans currently live in the Greater Pittsburgh area, and I am very happy to represent many of our local Croatian Americans in the U.S. Congress.

The Croatian Fraternal Union has provided much-needed insurance, investment, and social services for its members since its inception and has helped many Croatian Americans establish successful families and communities over the past 100+ years.

The Croatian Fraternal Union also ardently supported the Republic of Croatia's establishment as a stable democratic and free market-oriented nation-state as a result of the devolution of the Soviet Union and the Balkan Wars in the 1990s. The CFU was instrumental in developing American support as a founding member of and in steady concert with the National Federation of Croatian Americans for the new Republic's full accession into western multilateral organizations. This includes full membership in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, NATO, in early 2009 and the European Union on July 1, 2013.

This year, Mr. Luketich was re-elected to serve his 35th year as President of the CFU, the largest and oldest Croatian American organization in the United States. I would like to congratulate Bernie for his 35 years of strong leadership as President of the Croatian Fraternal Union.

As we all know, the president of any organization cannot do it alone. It is important to also to note the contributions of his long-time senior staff at the Pittsburgh headquarters—Executive Assistant/Editor Lorraine Turkall, Secretary/Treasurer Ed Pazo, VP Franjo Bertovic, VP George Pavlecic, Editor Ivan Begg, and CFU Board of Trustees President Bernadette Luketich Sikaras.

Mr. Speaker, I submit a June 5th article on Bernie Luketich's career that appeared in the Croatian American community's premier ethnic newspaper, the "Zajednicar."

Mr. Speaker, congratulations again to Bernie for his steady leadership and service to his diaspora community and to our United States.

[From the Zajednicar, June 5, 2013]

BERNARD M. LUKETICH—CELEBRATING 35 YEARS AS NATIONAL PRESIDENT OF THE CROATIAN FRATERNAL UNION OF AMERICA

A record-setting milestone was achieved on June 1, 2013 as CFU National President Bernard M. Luketich began his 35th anniversary year serving as National President at the helm of the Croatian Fraternal Union of America. Consecutively elected as National President since the 1979 CFU National Convention, President Luketich is currently serving his ninth full term as president of the Society.

Prior to becoming National President on June 1, 1978, Luketich had served as a Member of the Society's National Administration in various capacities, beginning with his election to the National Board of Trustees at the 1959 CFU National Convention held at Detroit, Michigan.

The son of Emma and Ivan Luketic, Bernard Luketich was born and raised in Cokeburg, Pennsylvania. His father, Ivan, emigrated from the village of Zagorje, Ogulin, Croatia and settled in Cokeburg where he found work in the Pennsylvania coal mines. A coal miner himself in his youth, Bernard Luketich carried his family values and love for his Croatian ancestry to become a leader of the largest Croatian fraternal organization outside of the old homeland.

Recognized as the "Founding Father" of the CFU Junior Cultural Federation, President Luketich counts this youth cultural program among his proudest achievements since it perpetuates Croatian identity and heritage among CFU children and young adults. In addition to the annual Junior Tamburitza Festivals, President Luketich was further instrumental in initiating the annual CFU Adult Tamburitza Festivals, both cultural events which have flourished over the years to promote Croatian tamburitza music throughout the United States and Canada.

Interested in Croatian activities at a young age, Bernard Luketich became a member of the Croatian Fraternal Union in 1932. He was elected President of his local CFU Lodge 354 at Cokeburg, Pennsylvania at the age of 16 and has served in that capacity since that time. Luketich established the St. George Junior Tamburitza of Lodge 354 in 1950 and later organized the St. George Adult Tamburitza of Lodge 354 in which he currently participates as an active tamburitza.

President Luketich has been the recipient of numerous prestigious awards, including the Redom Hrvatskog Pletera in 1996, the Redom Danice Hrvatske s Likom Katarine Zrinske in 1998, both bestowed upon him by the late Croatian President Dr. Franjo Tudjman, and the Red Kneza Trpimira s Ogrlicom i Danicom in 2003, presented to him by former Croatian President Stjepan Mesic.

Without question, Bernard Luketich has been the driving force in promoting Fraternal Unity among the CFU Membership and is the identifiable face of the Croatian Fraternal Union who has been instrumental in making our Fraternal Organization what it is today.

Bernard Luketich, along with his wife, Martha, and their family, continue to make their home in the small mining town of Cokeburg, PA. The full legacy of National President Luketich is yet to be written but

we can continue to expect great things from Bernard M. Luketich as he greets his 35th Presidential Year with the same pride that he has espoused since first becoming a member of our Fraternal Society. His lifelong passion remains the principles, programs and benefits of the CFU and the preservation of Croatian heritage, culture and identity. "Zivio!", President Luketich!

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Ivan Salamon, Honorary Lifetime Member,  
343 Alexandra Street, Sault Ste Marie, Ont.,  
Canada P6A 1J9

Steve Namesnik, Jr., Honorary Lifetime Member,  
P.O. Box 295, Newton Falls, OH 44444

Joseph M. Brigich, Honorary Lifetime Member,  
121 Freedom Drive N., Bridgeville, PA 15017

Donald C. Langenfeld, Honorary Lifetime Member,  
1020 Jerome Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15220

## OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

### HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2013

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$16,738,116,336,111.15. We've added \$6,111,239,287,178.07 to our debt in 4 and a half years. This is \$6 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

## IN RECOGNITION OF THE JAMIE KOTULA FOUNDATION FOR OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTIONS

### HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2013

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Jamie Kotula Foundation, an organization set forth to enrich the lives of others in Northeastern Pennsylvania through "random acts of kindness," a strong value of Jamie Kotula. The Foundation will also host the third annual Kick-Off Classic on August 31 and September 1, 2013, marking the outset of the fall sports season at Marywood University in Scranton.

Jamie Kotula, who tragically passed in a car accident on the morning of January 14, 2011

at the age of sixteen, lived a life of service towards others. His selfless character was revealed as a student at Holy Cross High School in Dunmore, Pennsylvania, where he served as secretary of the Student Council and a member of the boys' varsity soccer, swim, and track teams. In addition to being a dedicated class leader and a skilled and energetic athlete, Jamie was extremely well-rounded as a member of the National Honor Society, the Pro-Life club, chess club, foreign language club, and the show choir.

In honor of Jamie Kotula, who lived his life in the present each and every day, the Jamie Kotula Foundation was created to support like-minded individuals and groups in Northeast Pennsylvania who enrich lives and communities through acts of kindness and selflessness. Since its creation in 2011, the Foundation has distributed more than \$100,000 in both scholarships and donations to charitable causes, such as helping out the victims of the school violence at Sandy Hook Elementary in Newtown, Connecticut.

In recognition of the community contributions of the Jamie Kotula Foundation's largest event, the Kick-Off Classic, I add my congratulations and best wishes for continued success and service.

## INTRODUCTION OF THE PERMANENTLY ENDING RECEIPT BY PRISONERS ACT

### HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2013

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Permanently Ending Receipt by Prisoners Act, also known as the PERP Act. I am pleased to be joined by Representatives TODD YOUNG, MIKE KELLY, TIM GRIFFIN, JIM RENACCI, TOM REED, and CHARLES BOUSTANY, all Members of the Committee on Ways and Means Human Resources Subcommittee, which I chair. As a former sheriff and now Chairman of this Subcommittee that has jurisdiction over the Unemployment Insurance (UI) program, this bill blends the expertise I developed in my past career with my present committee responsibilities.

Under existing UI program rules that operate in all States, an individual must be able, available, and actively seeking work in order to be eligible to collect UI benefits, which are paid to those who are unemployed through no fault of their own. Individuals confined in jails, prisons, and other penal institutions are by definition not "able and available" to work and have historically been presumed to be not eligible for UI benefits.

Despite this fact, news articles in multiple States have revealed a nationwide epidemic of unemployment benefit payments to incarcerated individuals. Recent headlines include: Illinois: "State: More than \$2M in Unemployment Benefits Went to Inmates" (10/9/12); New Jersey: "Audit Says 20,000 Inmates Were Mistakenly Paid Nearly \$24M in State and Federal Benefits" (5/29/13); Pennsylvania: "Inmates Collect Millions in Unemployment Benefits in Philadelphia Jails" (2/20/13); and South Carolina: "Government Waste—Inmates Collecting Millions in Fraudulent Unemployment Checks" (2/21/13). The list unfortunately does not end

there, and these and other articles make it clear that taxpayers are wasting millions of dollars each year on unemployment benefit payments to prisoners.

We must make it very clear that incarcerated individuals should not be receiving unemployment benefits, and that States need to make affirmative efforts to end this obvious abuse. Unemployment benefits are designed to support people who are able and trying to find work and provide for their families, but who have fallen on hard times. It is an injustice that the tax dollars of law-abiding citizens are being used to provide assistance to people who have broken the law and simply should not qualify for these benefits.

The PERP Act provides the solutions to this problem by taking the following steps:

Barring States from paying UI checks to local, state and federal prisoners, strengthening a current implied prohibition because prisoners are not "able and available" for work; and

Requiring State UI agencies to regularly compare UI rolls with currently available inmate rosters to ensure UI checks are not paid to current inmates. At a minimum, States must access and use prisoner information the Social Security Administration has collected and used since the late-1990s to prevent the payment of Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefit checks to currently incarcerated individuals. This current data match is simple, quick, and efficient, and can readily be replicated by States to ensure that UI benefit checks are not paid to prisoners.

During 2011, the UI program made a staggering \$10.3 billion in improper payments, some of which were to individuals in our nation's jails and prisons. Those payments were made because under current practice too many States rely on the inmate to report their change of residence to the jail so that their UI benefits would end. Not surprisingly, few inmates volunteer to stop collecting these checks, and no benefit program should rely on the honesty of inmates to ensure taxpayer funds are properly spent. This legislation ends the practice of relying on self-reported information by inmates to prevent this type of UI benefit misspending. It does so simply by expecting all State UI agencies to tap into an existing Federal database of prisoners, already used to ensure that inmates do not collect disability checks. This system is fast, efficient, and affordable.

Again, I want to thank my colleagues on the Human Resources Subcommittee, Representatives TODD YOUNG, MIKE KELLY, TIM GRIFFIN, JIM RENACCI, TOM REED, and CHARLES BOUSTANY, for their support as original cosponsors of this bill. I invite all Members to join me in supporting this important legislation and look forward to its speedy consideration so that we can ensure we put an end to the outrageous practice of prisoners collecting benefit payments intended for the truly unemployed.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2013

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, last week, July 18, 2013, I was speaking with a documentary group about the civil rights movement, and I was unable to make it to the floor

for rollcall votes 364, 365, and 366. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" for all three.

IN RECOGNITION OF BOBBY VASSAR AND HIS CAREER IN PUBLIC SERVICE

**HON. BOB GOODLATTE**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 25, 2013*

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I, along with House Judiciary Committee Ranking Member JOHN CONYERS, Jr. and Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security and Investigations Ranking Member ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT, would like to take this opportunity to thank Bobby Vassar for his work with the House Committee on the Judiciary and Congressman SCOTT's Congressional office for the past 19 and ½ years.

Bobby came to Representative SCOTT's Congressional office on February 1, 1994 to serve as Senior Counsel and Legislative Director. He joined the staff of the Crime Subcommittee of the House Committee on the Judiciary in March of 1999 as Minority Chief Counsel. From January 2007 to January 2012, Bobby served as Majority Chief Counsel for the Subcommittee.

Prior to joining Representative SCOTT's office in 1994, he worked for three Virginia governors, starting as Chairman of the Virginia Parole Board in 1982 and ending as Acting Secretary of Health and Human Resources in 1994. Prior to 1982, he worked as Executive Director of the Peninsula Legal Aid Center in Hampton, Virginia, for which Congressman Scott served as Chairman of the Board. He also held positions previously as Assistant Vice Chancellor for Administration at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, as a staff attorney with the Laborer's Pre-paid Legal Services Plan of Washington, D.C. and Vicinity, and as a Reginald Heber Smith Community Lawyer Fellow at the Roanoke Virginia legal Aid Society. Bobby is a graduate of Norfolk State University and the University of Virginia School of Law.

Bobby's ability to work well with his colleagues, especially across the aisle and across the Capitol, made him a valuable staff asset to passing many key pieces of legislation. He had the lead staff responsibility in the House for several significant bipartisan bills that were enacted into law including the Mentally Ill Offender Treatment, and Crime Reduction Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-416); the Fair Sentencing Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-220); the Deaths in Custody Reporting Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-297); the Juvenile Accountability Block Grant Program (Public Law 107-273); the Second Chance Act of 2007 (Public Law 110-199); along with dozens of other bills enacted into law over the years. He also led the development of the Youth Prison Reduction through Opportunities, Mentoring, Intervention, Support and Education (PROMISE) Act which was introduced in the 110th Congress and has been reintroduced every subsequent Congress; H.R. 1695, the Justice Safety Valve Act of 2013; H.R. 2656, the Public Safety Enhancement Act of 2013; and many promising bipartisan bills pending in the House and Senate.

We are deeply appreciative of the service and contributions Bobby has provided the Crime Subcommittee, the Judiciary Committee and the Congress over the past two decades. Throughout that time, many people both on and off Capitol Hill have been fortunate to call him a colleague and friend. He will be missed. We wish him the best of fortunes and fulfillment in his future endeavors.

EIGHTH UNANSWERED QUESTION ON BENGHAZI ATTACKS

**HON. FRANK R. WOLF**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 25, 2013*

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, today I am raising the eighth in a series of critical, but unanswered, questions about the terrorist attack on the U.S. consulate and annex in Benghazi last September 11.

My previous seven questions have focused on what happened in Benghazi that night.

Today, I would like to focus on what happened in Washington.

It has been well documented that official Washington started to get reports of the attack around 4 p.m. Eastern Standard Time. It also has been well documented that then-Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta and General Martin Dempsey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, made the decision to brief President Obama about what was happening at a previously scheduled 5 p.m. meeting, which is 11 p.m. in Libya.

Former AFRICOM commander General Carter Ham (ret.) told a paying audience at the Aspen Security Forum in Aspen, Colorado—where tickets started at \$1,200—last weekend that by the time a U.S. drone appeared over the consulate shortly after 11 p.m. the attack on the consulate was winding down. He also said it was clear this wasn't a protest and he understood it to be a terrorist attack—a direct conflict with repeated statements by the Obama Administration.

If the Pentagon immediately knew this to be a terrorist attack, why did the president go to the United Nations nearly two weeks later and blame the attack on protest in response to a controversial video? Why did then-UN Ambassador Susan Rice go on five Sunday shows and attribute the attack to the video? Why did former Secretary Clinton continue to reference the video as the cause of the protest when the Pentagon immediately attributed the attack to terrorism?

It is also worth asking what Gen. Ham thought of the waves of attacks against the CIA annex later that night. Trusted sources have told my office that in the weeks leading up to the attack, the annex had a notice on its bulletin board warning about imminent attacks on U.S. facilities and other foreign consulates in Benghazi. How does Gen. Ham reconcile his position that there was to send assistance after the consulate firefight ended when there was so many more attacks against Americans that night?

A U.S. consulate is under attack. A U.S. Ambassador is missing. A State Department Diplomatic Security Agent is dead. Are the American people to believe the president is briefed only once that entire night, at 5 p.m. Eastern Standard Time?

My question(s) today: Where was the president the rest of the night?

Did his national security team, including John Brennan, Sec. Panetta and Gen. Dempsey, ever go back and brief the president when the annex came under attack? If so, what steps did he direct at that time?

Did the president ever step foot in the White House Situation Room that night?

Did he ever see the footage from the unarmed drone stationed over Benghazi monitoring the attacks?

I field many of these questions from my constituents on a regular basis and I believe they are fair to ask, especially when the White House carefully orchestrates photo-ops and leaks of the president and other senior administration officials when the news is favorable, like the now-famous picture of the president and his national security team watching a live video feed of the raid on Osama bin Laden's compound in 2011.

Last evening, Fox News' Catherine Herridge reported how Diplomatic Security Agent David Ubben is still recovering at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center—more than 10 months after the attack—for injuries he sustained while repeatedly risking his life to save others that night. Fox reported that it was Ubben who ran into the burning consulate building to retrieve Sean Smith's body. Fox reported it was Ubben who later that night climbed the roof of the annex compound with Ty Woods and Glen Doherty to try to defend the annex during the mortar rounds, where he sustained a very serious injury that is still being treated at Walter Reed.

Contrast David Ubben's valiant efforts—repeatedly putting his life on the line to try to save the lives of the other Americans at the consulate and annex—with what is currently known about what the White House national security team did to support him and the others in Benghazi.

As far as the American people know, after nearly a year of investigations, the White House took no additional efforts to come to the aid of those in Benghazi, nor, apparently, did the president take another briefing on what was happening.

Has the president ever called or met with David Ubben to thank him for his sacrifice? Has he ever called the others who were seriously wounded that night, including the former Navy SEAL on the security team who sustained significant injuries?

To Secretary Kerry's credit, I know that he has visited with Mr. Ubben at Walter Reed. But did former Secretary Clinton ever meet with him during the six months she was still in office after the attack?

Either way, the families of the four Americans—including a U.S. Ambassador—who lost their lives in Benghazi have a right to know where the Commander-in-Chief was on September 11, 2012 and what role he and his national security team played to provide support to those in Benghazi that night.

The State Department's own Web site asserts, "International rules do not allow representatives of the host country to enter an embassy without permission—even to put out a fire—and designate an attack on an embassy as an attack on the country it represents."

In this context, with an attack against America underway, it's fair to ask, did the president and his team ever even consider cancelling

his political fundraiser in Las Vegas the next day to monitor the situation in Benghazi?

That night, when the ambassador was considered a potential hostage and nearly 30 Americans were under sustained attacks at the CIA annex, did the president's staff ever notify the campaign that he might not be leaving the White House the next day?

When he boarded Air Force One for Las Vegas, did the president know about the serious injuries that some of the survivors had sustained? Did he know what hospitals they were being taken to?

Is there a parallel in American history when the U.S. was under attack, Americans were killed and a sitting U.S. ambassador was considered a potential terrorist hostage, but the president was not engaged with his national security team?

I think most Americans would agree that they are legitimate questions that deserve a straightforward and truthful answer.

With only four legislative days remaining before the Congress departs for August recess, I am increasingly concerned that this question, as well as the other questions I have raised in the last two weeks, will not be answered by the one-year anniversary of the Benghazi attacks.

That is deeply disappointing. Congress can—and should—do better.

I continue to believe the only way to get answers through a House Select Committee. H.R. Res 36 has 162 cosponsors, a majority of the Majority. Two new cosponsors joined in the past week alone. This is the way to go so the Congress and the American people know the truth, whatever it may be.

#### ADVANCE NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING

#### HON. MIKE MCINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2013

Mr. MCINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPRM) issued by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) this week seeking comments from the general public as the Agency contemplates the future of menthol cigarettes.

As part of the agency's review process, the FDA released a report entitled "Preliminary Scientific Evaluation of the Possible Public Health Effects of Menthol Versus Nonmenthol Cigarettes," which documents the FDA's review of the currently available science on menthol. Disappointingly, the report relies heavily on social sciences while admitting that menthol cigarettes are no more harmful than their nonmenthol counterparts.

Specifically, the report states that "No studies found an increased risk of cancer or non-cancer diseases in menthol smokers compared to nonmenthol smokers. From the available studies, the weight of evidence supports the conclusion that menthol in cigarettes is not associated with an increase in disease risk to the user compared to non-menthol cigarette smokers."

In addition to the FDA's conclusion that menthol cigarettes pose no greater disease risk than nonmenthol cigarettes, it is insensible for the agency to conduct a review of percep-

tion of menthol products. While the review of this type of information may be useful to understanding adult consumer choice, it should not form the basis of any policy decision within FDA. Rulemaking should be rooted in science.

Finally, the real world health consequences of a potential ban are very alarming. Implementing a ban unfounded in science could lead to the creation of a black market for menthol products. Such an illegal market would result in an influx of illegal, unregulated, counterfeit products into the marketplace.

Mr. Speaker, I am hopeful that these concerns will be addressed during the public comment period, and that the FDA will treat this issue fairly and with the scientific integrity it deserves.

#### A.L. STANBACK MIDDLE SCHOOL: SCHOOL TO WATCH

#### HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2013

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the faculty, staff and students of A.L. Stanback Middle School in Hillsborough, North Carolina, on being designated one of 115 "Schools to Watch" by the National Forum to Accelerate Middle-Grades Reform. The "School to Watch" designation signifies that A. L. Stanback's administrators and teachers have created one of the most academically excellent, developmentally responsive, and socially equitable middle schools in the nation.

I applaud A.L. Stanback's commitment to engaging students by challenging expectations and employing a variety of teaching methods. Reaching students during their middle school years is critically important, and A.L. Stanback truly takes this to heart, preparing its students not only for their high school education but their lives beyond by teaching critical thinking skills. By providing students with diverse opportunities in a supportive environment, A.L. Stanback is helping today's students become tomorrow's leaders.

The Research Triangle of North Carolina is considered one of the best places in the nation to live, work and raise a family, and the A.L. Stanback Middle School community's record of success will only contribute to that reputation. This is well-deserved recognition, and I hope it serves as a shining example of the positive impact that creative, committed teachers can have not only on our young people, but also on how we strive for excellence in education.

Congratulations again to the teachers, administrators, parents, and students that helped A.L. Stanback Middle School achieve this award.

#### HONORING STEVEN RYAN PALMER

#### HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2013

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, every community needs a great champion who organizes, leads, and fights to leave an indelible

mark. Those champions come in many forms. Some are teachers, some are public servants, and some are dedicated to noble causes. I rise today to honor one such champion, Steven Ryan Palmer, as he retires from 36 years of distinguished service to the American Cancer Society.

Palmer's three decades of service began in South Carolina as a worker in the field level of the American Cancer Society. He went on to hold many leadership positions in the six-state Mid-South Division of the American Cancer Society. His work was instrumental in the success of many ACS initiatives which improved and saved lives in Middle Tennessee.

I ask my colleagues to join with me in honoring the outstanding work and dedication of Ryan Palmer. From the American Cancer Society to Brentwood Baptist Church, Ryan has certainly offered his time, talents, and treasures to his community. Along with his family and friends, I offer my thanks for his service to others.

#### IN OPPOSITION TO THE RULE GOVERNING DEBATE ON H.R. 2667, THE "AUTHORITY FOR MANDATE DELAY"

#### HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2013

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to the Rule and the underlying legislation because this bill would delay the implementation of the employer mandate a key provisions of the Affordable Care Act until 2014.

The House majority on May 16, 2013 placed before this body another bill in another attempt to end the Affordable Care Act also known as Obama Care. Their efforts to do anything and everything they can think of to stop millions of Americans from enjoying the security of health care enjoyed by all of my colleagues in this body is astounding. The Health care we enjoy is at the taxpayer expense so we do know what a federally supported health plan can do.

27.6 percent of Texans are without health care coverage

The Department of Health and Human Services announced over \$9 million in grants to fund community health centers all over the State of Texas. The funds will be used to enroll the uninsured in new health coverage options made available under the Affordable Care Act—or Obama Care Act.

The Affordable Care Act is needed and we should not pretend otherwise. The Administration announced that it would on its own allow a delay to work with the 5 percent of employers who are having difficulty meeting the mandate for providing health insurance for all of their employees. This means that 95 percent have met the obligation so the need for this change in law is not founded in fact.

In my district over the weekend, I held a press conference to congratulate Community Health Centers in the City of House who received part of \$9 million to the State by the Department of Health and Human Services. The Grants to Community Health Centers will fund work to enroll the uninsured in new health coverage options made available under the Affordable Care Act—or Obama Care Act.

Community Health Centers are non-profit, community focused health care providers who serve low-income and medically underserved communities.

Community Health Centers care for over 22 million people nationally.

In 2012, 50 million people in the United States had no health insurance coverage, with many losing insurance as a result of the recent recession.

The grants provided to Community Health Care Centers like Legacy Community Health Services located in my district will help millions of uninsured people in our nation get the medical care they need and deserve.

LIST OF COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS AWARDED FUNDS  
IN THE CITY OF HOUSTON

Fourth Ward Clinic—\$124,395  
El Centro Del Corazon—\$144, 525  
Houston Community Health Care—\$90,691  
South Central Houston Community—\$165,755  
Asian American Health Coalition of the Greater Houston Area—\$90,867  
Spring Branch Community Health Center—\$108,346  
Houston Area Community Services—\$73,981  
Legacy Community Health Services—\$267,747

Health Care for the Homeless—\$104,000  
Harris County Hospital District—\$154,326  
In 2012, Texas had 67 health centers operating in 388 sites providing services to over 1 million patients. Fifty-one percent of the 1 million people cared in my state for were uninsured.

STATISTICS ON THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

—Affordable Care Act Benefits to the 18th Congressional District:

11,400 young adults have insurance through their parents.

4,100 seniors received \$5.4 million in discounts for prescription medication and average of \$600 per person. This was a cost savings of \$650 on average and so far in 2013 the savings are \$1,040.

71,000 seniors are now eligible for Medicare prevention services without paying co-pays.

121,000 individuals, including 23,000 children and 50,000 women now have health insurance that prevent insurance companies from spending more than 20 percent of their premium dollars on profits and administrative overhead.

46,000 children with pre-existing illnesses can no longer be denied insurance.

153,000 people in my district have health insurance that have no lifetime limits on their coverage and will not face annual limits.

Up to 193,000 people in the 18th Congressional District of Houston Texas will have access to quality health affordable health care without fear of discrimination or higher rates because of preexisting health conditions.

17,000 individuals who purchase insurance on the private health insurance market established for individuals or small groups will have access to more secure, higher quality coverage and many will have access to financial assistance.

NATIONAL BENEFIT OF OBAMA CARE

13 million Americans received \$1.1 billion in rebates from their health insurance companies last year.

105 million Americans have free preventive services.

Millions of women now have free coverage for comprehensive women's preventive medical services.

100 million Americans no longer have a lifetime limit on healthcare coverage.

17 million children with pre-existing conditions can no longer be denied coverage by insurers.

6.6 million young-adults up to age 26 can stay on their parents' health insurance plans.

6.3 million Seniors in the 'donut hole' have saved \$6.1 billion on their prescription drugs.

3.2 million Seniors have access to free annual wellness visits under Medicare.

360,000 Small Businesses are using the Health Care Tax Credit to help them provide health insurance to their workers.

STATISTICS ON TEXAS AND THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

3.8 million Texas residents receive preventative care services.

7 million Texans no longer have lifetime limits on their healthcare insurance.

300,731 young adults can remain on their parents' health insurance until age 26.

5 million Texas residents can receive a rebate check from their insurance company if it does not spend 80 percent of premium dollars on healthcare.

4,029 people with pre-existing conditions now have health insurance.

In 2014, Insurance companies will be banned from: discriminating against anyone with a preexisting condition; charging higher rates based on gender or health status; enforcing lifetime dollar limits; enforcing annual dollar limits on health benefits.

The healthcare law has many benefits.

For these reasons, I urge my Colleagues to join me in voting no on the rule for this bad bill.

The House and the Senate have real work to create jobs, strengthen the food security for our most vulnerable—children, elderly, disabled and low-wage workers. We need to address immigration reform and Border Security and we should be focused on the need to pass appropriations bills that eliminate Sequestration that is strangling the financial security of millions of Federal workers. Sequestration not only hurt Federal workers but the local economies that no longer have the incomes provided by Federal agencies to stimulate the recovery our Nation is now entering.

We should be about the business of the people sent us to Washington to work in their interest.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to reject the rule for this bill.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2013

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today regarding my absence from the House for the first vote on July 25, 2013. I was unfortunately absent because I was detained in traffic, as I returned from an event. I would like to submit how I would have voted had I been in attendance for the following vote: Rollcall No. 415, on agreeing to the Waxman amendment, I would have voted "aye."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVEN A. HORSFORD

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2013

Mr. HORSFORD. Mr. Speaker, on consideration of H.R. 2397, I am not recorded because I was absent due to medically mandated recovery. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on final passage of the bill (rollcall No. 414), and "aye" on the Amash Amendment to the bill (rollcall No. 412).

RECOGNIZING PLEASANTON  
RELAY FOR LIFE

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2013

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life, happening this weekend at Pleasanton Valley Middle School.

Cancer is expected to strike about 1.7 million Americans this year. As of January 2012, over 13.7 million people with a history of cancer were alive in this country. Sadly, about 580,000 will pass away from the disease in 2013.

While we are doing a lot better than we used to in terms of diagnosis and treatment, these numbers show the fight against cancer is far from over. That is why this weekend's Relay for Life is such a terrific event.

Participants work as part of relay teams and run or walk around the school track; someone from the team is always on the field, for the entire two-day event, reminding us that cancer never sleeps either.

The relay provides an opportunity to applaud those fighting cancer, honor people we have lost to the disease, recognize caregivers, and raise badly needed funds.

Relays like this occur worldwide, and over four billion dollars has been raised since the first one in May 1985. The dedication and fundraising efforts of participants play a critical role in helping reach our goal of a future without cancer.

Cancer is an issue that affects everyone. Through Relay for Life, communities around the world unite through the knowledge that they are working to help save and prolong lives.

Events like this show the best of the East Bay—a willingness to come together in common cause for a larger purpose. I want to thank the event organizers and group supporters: Florine Johnston, Pam Sanchez, Miriam Drummond, Stephanie DaVile, Nilo Bartolome, Larry Coy, Haddy Coy, Kaitlin Gallagher, Sue Schepers, Kimberly Haynes, Janis Wills, Lisa Lundquist, Randy Brown, Lisa Brown, John Swager, Julie Ochi, the American Cancer Society, Valley Medical Oncology Consultants, and the Rotary Club of Pleasanton North.

I wish everyone the best of luck with the relay, and I am proud to join them in their battle against cancer.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. DONALD M. PAYNE, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 25, 2013*

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, during an evening series of votes on July 24, 2013, on amendments to the Department of Defense Appropriations Act FY2014 (H.R. 2397), I intended to vote “yes” on the Amash/Conyers Amendment (rollcall No. 412), but inadvertently voted “no”. This amendment would require the government to limit its collection of the records to those that actually pertain to the subject of a duly authorized investigation. The National Security Agency and other agencies would still retain their authority to collect specific records under Section 215, however, blanket collection of telephone records would end. I strongly support both protecting our country and preserving our civil liberties.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MR.  
DAVID MCCOURT**HON. JOE COURTNEY**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 25, 2013*

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, on July 11, 2013, the State of Connecticut and our nation lost an extraordinary man, David McCourt. A New London native, David's life served as a beacon of hope and wisdom in our difficult times. David was a highly successful businessman who took over a family business, ABCO Welding Supply, in 1986 with his brother Bill. Through hard work and entrepreneurial skill, they grew the business and achieved a comfortable station in life.

Tragically on September 11, 2001, that idyllic story was violently upset when his wife Ruth and four-year-old daughter Juliana died aboard United Flight 175 that crashed into the Twin Towers in New York City. The horror and pain of that loss was devastating to David and any person would be forgiven for reacting to such a loss with anger and depression. David, however, responded differently. After a period of mourning he sought heal the division and conflict which are part of modern existence, rather than inflame violence and hate.

After a spiritual awakening, he helped found B.R.A.V.E. Juliana, a program of HELP USA. He devoted his time to teach children non-violence and conflict resolution. He said “what we have to do is start with the children in this country and teach them tolerance, compassion, and understanding.” In 2002, he also founded the Juliana Valentine McCourt Children's Education Fund. Each year the fund gives out funding to local youth organizations.

Each year the New London Police Department and Fire Department host a benefit softball game to remember the events of 9/11 and raise donations for the McCourt Fund. The Juliana Valentine McCourt Memorial Softball game brings the whole community together in remembrance of the victims. New London was very pleased and excited when David attended the 2012 game, which raised over \$1,000 for the McCourt fund.

New London's Lyman Allyn Art museum established a garden to honor the memories of

Juliana and Ruth. The McCourt memorial garden according to David serves as a “metaphor for seasons and renewal and healing for those who are left behind.” David spoke powerfully at the 10 year commemorative event held at the McCourt memorial garden.

Mr. McCourt passed away on July 11 after a courageous battle with metastatic melanoma. He leaves behind his current wife, Mary Bryant McCourt, his four children, and nine grandchildren. Mr. Speaker, I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of David McCourt, and sharing our condolences with the family he leaves behind.

## HONORING BILL AND VERDA DAY

**HON. VICKY HARTZLER**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 25, 2013*

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Bill and Verda Day of Harrisonville, Missouri who are celebrating their 70th Wedding Anniversary. Bill and Verda are a tower of strength, support, understanding and love for their family—children Russ (Ann), Dave (Karen), Steve (Vicki), and Al (Dixie); nine grandchildren (one deceased); and 17 great-grandchildren.

Bill and Verda met while students at University of Missouri, and have always lived with great dignity and genuine grace, always demonstrating a deep and continuing concern for human values and ideals, and inspiring others to do the same. Verda was the Harrisonville City Clerk for 24 years, from 1963 to 1987. Bill taught high school vocational agriculture for 23 years and was a Farm Bureau Insurance agent in Harrisonville for 20 years. They have been wonderful leaders in the community and have made a tangible impact on Harrisonville through their involvement in church and civic organizations.

This meaningful occasion is the result of the love and hard work that this couple has invested in their marriage. Bill and Verda have touched the lives of their family and many friends through the shining example of their marriage, which is a testament to the devotion and admiration that they possess for one another.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring and congratulating Bill and Verda Day in the celebration of their 70th Wedding Anniversary, and extend to them best wishes for their future happiness.

ON THE OCCASION OF THE 60TH  
ANNIVERSARY OF THE KOREAN  
WAR ARMISTICE**HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 25, 2013*

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark the 60th anniversary of the July 27, 1953 signing of the Armistice Agreement that temporarily halted the active combat of the Korean War. Today, the Korean War still continues in the form of threats, military exercises, periodic flare-ups, sanctions, and the build-up of armaments on both sides. Earlier this year,

military tensions on the Korean peninsula dangerously escalated.

The preamble to the 1953 Armistice Agreement, which was signed by the United States, North Korea, and China, states that its ultimate purpose was to stop “the Korean conflict, with its great toll of suffering and bloodshed on both sides, and . . . [to] insure a complete cessation of hostilities and of all acts of armed force in Korea until a final peace settlement is achieved.” Intended only as a temporary measure, the Armistice Agreement was meant to be replaced with a permanent peace accord.

Sixty years later, however, the United States spends billions of dollars per year to maintain its military presence in South Korea, one of the top ten global economies. At a time when many Americans struggle to pay their bills, vital U.S. dollars are directed into further militarizing the Korean peninsula. Moreover, the Korean peninsula remains tragically divided and millions of Korean and Korean American families remain separated from their loved ones. Korean Americans who were direct witness to the war's devastation are now reaching their seventies and eighties. It is high time to recognize the human costs of ongoing war and to offer genuine hope to Korean Americans who yearn for a long overdue end to this war. We must honor them and all those who fought in the war, including our own Korean War veterans, by replacing hostilities with genuine peace within their lifetimes.

Mr. Speaker, it is my sincere hope that this somber milestone can serve as a call to action for us in Congress to do our part to de-escalate tensions and to work towards the establishment of a permanent and stable peace regime on the Korean peninsula. Peace negotiations between the United States, South Korea, North Korea, and all relevant parties are the only way forward.

IN OPPOSITION TO THE RULE GOV-  
ERNING DEBATE ON H.R. 2668,  
THE “FAIRNESS FOR AMERICAN  
FAMILIES ACT”**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 25, 2013*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to the Rule and the underlying legislation because this bill would delay the implementation of the individual mandate of the Affordable Care Act until 2014.

This bill is about avoiding personal responsibility for persons who could afford health insurance but decide not to purchase it. When people arrive at emergency rooms without health care insurance, they are not turned away, but receive treatment. The cost of this care is often much higher than if a patient visits a doctor early to address health issues rather than wait and go to an emergency room for care. Persons with health insurance avoid going to the doctor out of fear of what it will cost that concern can be eliminated by getting health care insurance or coverage.

This bill is another attempt by the House Republican majority to frustrate the successful implementation of the Affordable Care Act. Their effort to increase the burden on individuals who take personal responsibility and exercise choice in purchasing their own health

care insurance should not be encouraged by our actions. This bill will assure that those individuals who can pay for their health care insurance do so. If they do not purchase health insurance when they had the means to, then a fee will be assessed that they will be used to cover health care expenses.

Everyone must act responsibly in making the Affordable Health Care Act work and that includes every member of the Congress.

In my state:

27.6% of Texans are without health care coverage.

In my district over the weekend, I held a press conference to congratulate Community Health Centers in the City of Houston who received part of \$9 million awarded to the State by the Department of Health and Human Services. The Grants to Community Health Centers will work to enroll the uninsured in new health coverage options made available under the Affordable Care Act—or Obama Care Act.

Community Health Care Centers will ensure that even the poorest of our citizens take personal responsibility to acquire health insurance coverage as long as we as members of Congress do our jobs and let our constituents know about these health care options.

Today, Community Health Centers care for over 22 million people nationally. The funding provided by these Department of Health and Human Services grants will mean that millions more will have access to health care and health insurance.

In 2012, 50 million people in the United States had no health insurance coverage, with many losing insurance as a result of the recent recession. The grants provided to Community Health Care Centers will help millions of uninsured people in our nation get the medical care they need and deserve.

#### LIST OF COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS AWARDED FUNDS IN THE CITY OF HOUSTON

Fourth Ward Clinic, \$124,395;  
El Centro Del Corazon, \$144,525;  
Houston Community Health Care, \$90,691;  
South Central Houston Community, \$165,755;  
Asian American Health Coalition of the Greater Houston Area, \$90,867;  
Spring Branch Community Health Center, \$108,346;  
Houston Area Community Services, \$73,981;

Legacy Community Health Services, \$267,747;

Health Care for the Homeless, \$104,000;  
Harris County Hospital District, \$154,326;

#### STATISTICS ON THE 18TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT, NATION AND STATE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

Affordable Care Act Benefits to the 18th Congressional District:

11,400 young adults have insurance through their parents;

4,100 seniors received \$5.4 million in discounts for prescription medication and average of \$600 per person. This was a cost savings of \$650 on average and so far in 2013 the savings are \$1,040;

71,000 seniors are now eligible for Medicare prevention services without paying co-pays;

121,000 individuals, including 23,000 children and 50,000 women now have health insurance that prevent insurance companies from spending more than 20% of their premium dollars on profits and administrative overhead;

46,000 children with pre-existing illnesses can no longer be denied insurance;

153,000 people in my district have health insurance that have no lifetime limits on their coverage and will not face annual limits;

Up to 193,000 people in the 18th Congressional District of Houston, Texas will have access to quality health affordable health care without fear of discrimination or higher rates because of preexisting health conditions;

17,000 individuals who purchase insurance on the private health insurance market established for individuals or small groups will have access to more secure, higher quality coverage and many will have access to financial assistance.

#### NATIONAL BENEFIT OF OBAMA CARE

13 million Americans received \$1.1 billion in rebates from their health insurance companies last year;

105 million Americans have free preventive services;

Millions of women now have free coverage for comprehensive women's preventive medical services;

100 million Americans no longer have a lifetime limit on healthcare coverage;

17 million children with pre-existing conditions can no longer be denied coverage by insurers;

6.6 million young-adults up to age 26 can stay on their parents' health insurance plans;

6.3 million Seniors in the "donut hole" have saved \$6.1 billion on their prescription drugs;

3.2 million Seniors have access to free annual wellness visits under Medicare; and

360,000 Small Businesses are using the Health Care Tax Credit to help them provide health insurance to their workers.

#### STATISTICS ON TEXAS AND THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

3.8 million Texas residents receive preventive care services;

7 million Texans no longer have lifetime limits on their healthcare insurance;

300,731 young adults can remain on their parents' health insurance until age 26;

5 million Texas residents can receive a rebate check from their insurance company if it does not spend 80 percent of premium dollars on healthcare;

4,029 people with pre-existing conditions now have health insurance;

In 2014, Insurance companies will be banned from:

discriminating against anyone with a pre-existing condition;

charging higher rates based on gender or health status;

enforcing lifetime dollar limits;

enforcing annual dollar limits on health benefits.

The healthcare law has many benefits.

For these reasons, I urge my Colleagues to join me in voting no on the rule for this bad bill.

The House and the Senate have real work to do such as creating jobs and strengthening food security for our most vulnerable—children, the elderly, the disabled and low-wage workers. We need to address immigration reform and Border Security, responsible gun safety measures, equity in our judicial system and voting rights.

We should also focus on the need to pass appropriations bills that eliminate Sequestration that is strangling the financial security of millions of federal workers. Sequestration not only hurts federal workers, but the local economies that no longer have the incomes provided by federal agencies to stimulate the recovery our nation is now entering are.

I urge the rejection of this rule.